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DIRECTORATE OF
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Imagery Analysis Service Notes

1 October 1971

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This publication highlights significant or timely intelligence items derived from photography.

The interpretations in this publication represent preliminary views which are subject to modification in the light of further information and more complete analysis.

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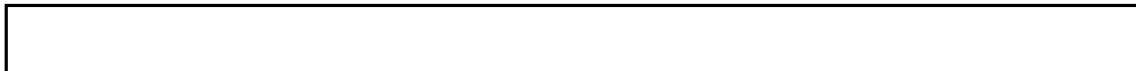
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
Imagery Analysis Service

IMAGERY ANALYSIS SERVICE NOTES NO. 24/71

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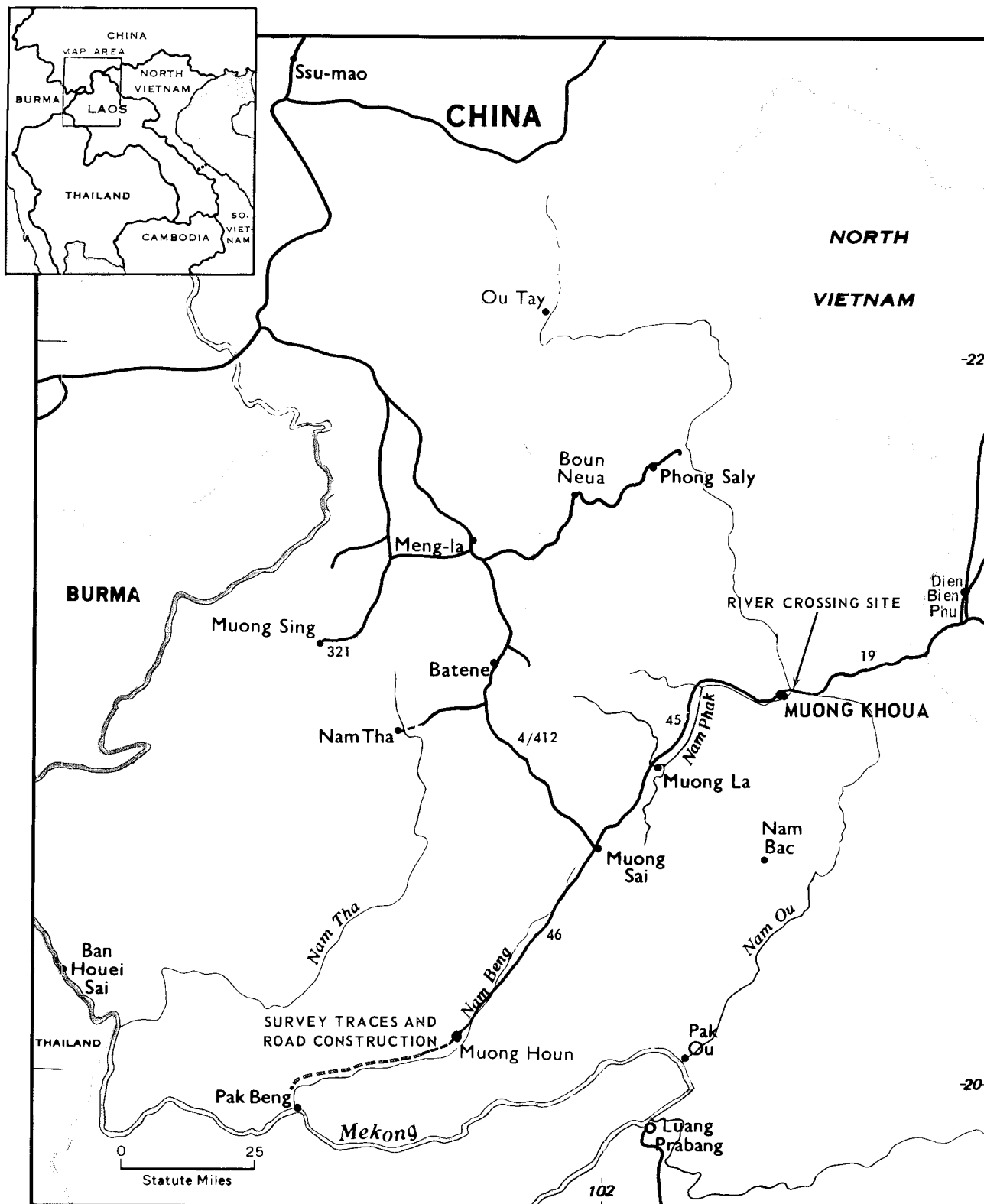


FIGURE 4. STATUS OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN NORTHWEST LAOS, LATE

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CHINA-LAOS

Renewed Chinese Road Construction in Northwest Laos

Recent photography shows that the Chinese are resuming road construction in northwest Laos as the wet season comes to a close. Survey traces provide the first visible evidence that Route 46 will extend from Muong Houn at least as far as Pak Beng on the Mekong River. Construction activity is also noted to the northeast at the river crossing site at Muong Khoua.

Initial clearing of a probable service road south from Muong Houn was first noted on [] photography. Comprehensive coverage of the area on [] revealed intermittent survey traces from Muong Houn to within 2.4 kilometers of Pak Beng on the Mekong.

At Muong Khoua, new earth scarring is present on both sides of the river on [] photography. A bridge or ferry crossing over the Nam Ou will remove the last major obstacle to vehicle traffic connecting with North Vietnam.

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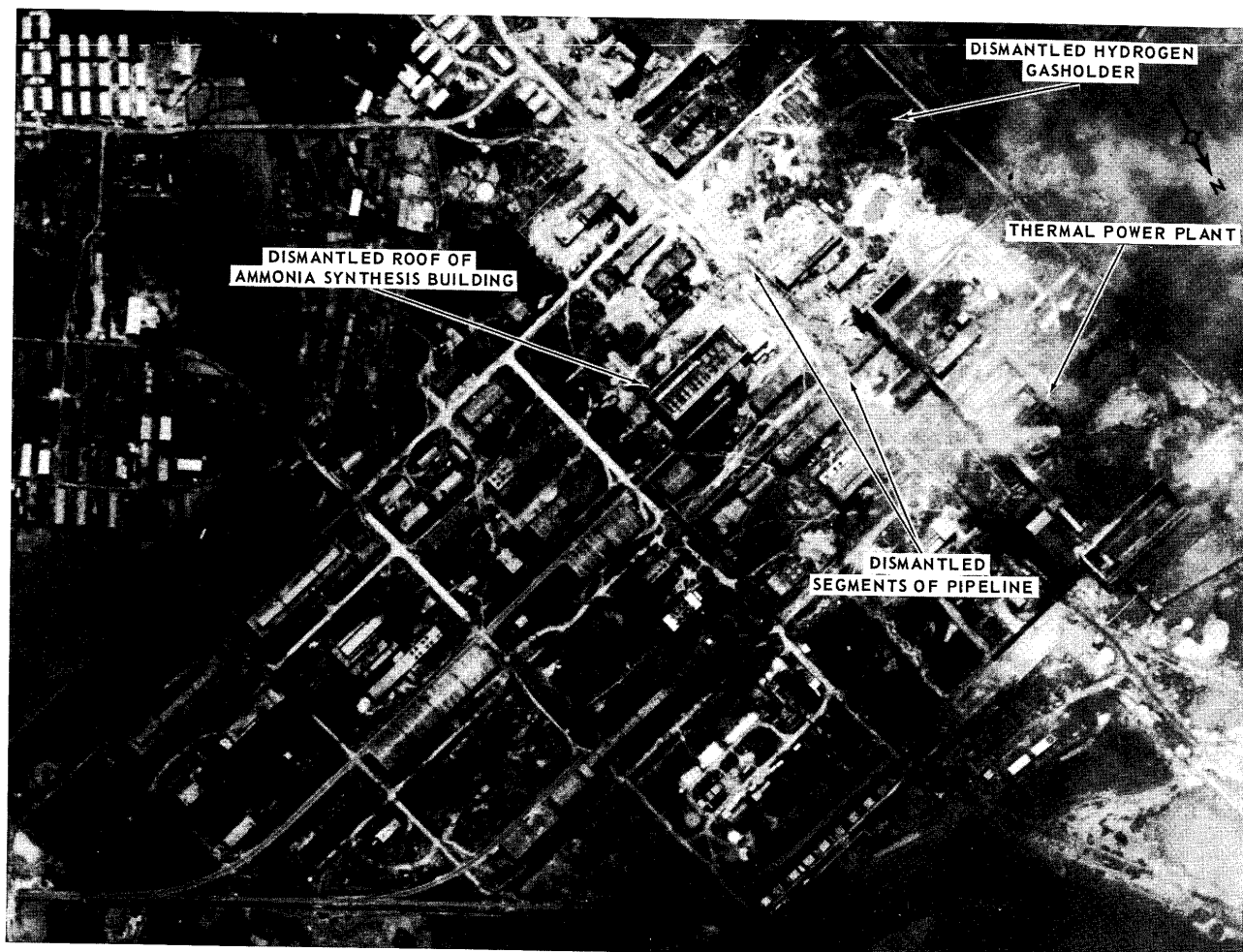


FIGURE 5. BAC GIANG CHEMICAL FERTILIZER PLANT, NORTH VIETNAM, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION).

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NORTH VIETNAM

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Bac Giang Chemical Fertilizer Plant Probably Being Reconstructed

Photography of [] shows that destroyed and damaged sections of the Bac Giang Chemical Fertilizer Plant have been dismantled. This is the expected first step in the rebuilding of this facility, which has been inoperable since 1967 when it was damaged by air strikes. Bac Giang is North Vietnam's largest chemical fertilizer plant and its only producer of nitrogenous fertilizers. North Vietnam has three phosphate fertilizer plants, but only one of these is known to be in operation.

Activity observed at the Bac Giang plant in [] included the dismantling of the damaged roof of the ammonia synthesis building, the destroyed hydrogen gasholder, and at least two segments of damaged pipeline (see Figure 5). This dismantling facilitates structural repairs and provides access to destroyed or damaged equipment. A collocated thermal power plant, which was also damaged during the 1967 air strikes, has been partially repaired and in operation since []

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